

REMARKS

I. PRELIMINARY REMARKS

Claims 30, 31, 33, 52 and 55 have been amended.¹ No claims have been added or canceled. Claims 30, 31, 33-44, 46-61 and 63-73 remain in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 40-44, 46-49, 60, 61 and 63-69 have been allowed.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. The Rejection

Claims 30, 31, 33-39, 50-59 and 70-73 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of the Lundquist patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,395,327 and the Webster patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,827,278). The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended above. Reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

B. Discussion

Independent claim 30 calls for a combination of elements including, *inter alia*, “a hollow catheter body having a side wall and an aperture,” “a steering center support located within the catheter body,” “adhesive material ... securing the hollow catheter body to the steering center support” and “**adhesive material in the side wall aperture that is substantially the same color as the catheter body.**” Claims 31, 33-39, 50, 51 and 70-

¹ In view of the withdrawal of the prior indication of allowability, claims 31, 33 and 55 have been returned to dependent form.

72 depend from independent claim 30 and the combinations defined thereby include, *inter alia*, the elements recited in claim 30.

Independent claim 52 calls for a combination of elements including, *inter alia*, "a hollow catheter body including ... a side wall and an aperture extending through a predetermined portion of the side wall," "at least one internal component," "adhesive material located within the hollow catheter body securing the proximal member distal region to the at least one internal component" and "***adhesive material in the side wall aperture that is substantially the same color as the catheter body.***" Claims 53-59 and 73 depend from independent claim 52 and the combinations defined thereby include, *inter alia*, the elements recited in claim 52.

The cited references fail to teach or suggest the claimed combinations. For example, the Lunquist patent fails to teach or suggest a catheter body with a side wall aperture and adhesive material within the side wall aperture. The Webster patent discloses that adhesive material may be transferred into a catheter body by way of an aperture. [See, e.g., column 4, lines 32-40 and column 5, lines 19-25.] The Webster patent does not, however, disclose that adhesive material which is within an aperture (note Figure 4) is the same color as the catheter body.

As the Lundquist and Webster patents fail to teach or suggest the respective combinations of elements recited in independent claims 30 and 52, whether viewed alone or in combination, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 30, 31, 33-39, 50-59 and 70-73 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should be withdrawn.

III. CLOSING REMARKS

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the application are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is courteously solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call applicant's undersigned

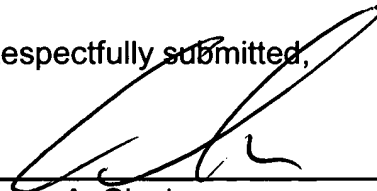
representative at (310) 563-1458 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0638. Should such fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

9/3/04
Date

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Respectfully submitted,



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